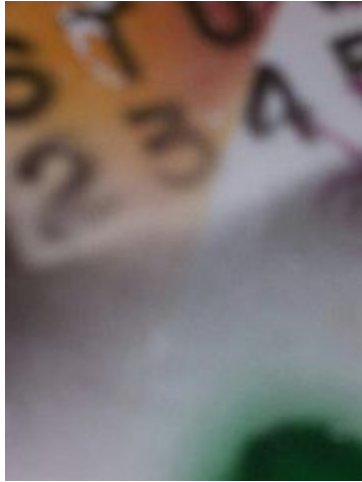


FrontPage

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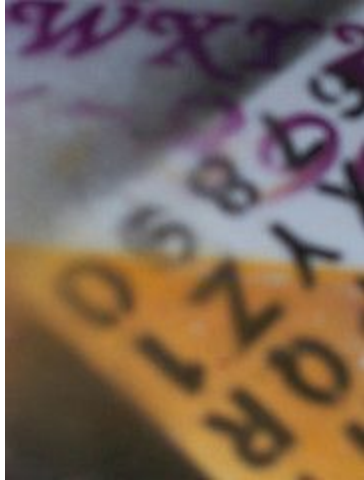
sein were beamed around the word

ly in June 1867, then a political

ferent circumstances: he idealist

exico, who hid seen installed thr

ention, farce a firing squad of



news, Edouard Manet made some
paintings. In January 1862 - exactly
the day was that over 10,000 British
soldiers were disembarking at the port
claim of forcing Mexico to say it
he came clear that France had some
influence. Britain and Spain had the men
that was burning into an ugly imperial
part, in search of mineral wealth
come. The news, then, of what happened



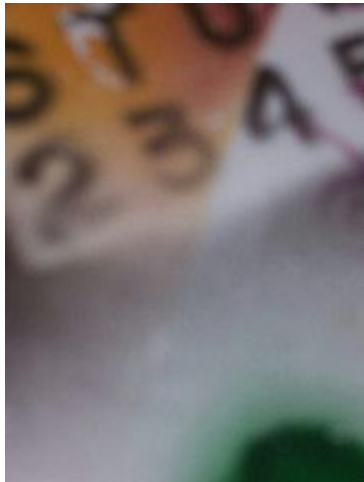
utterly unexpected: the mist ren
liated by the ferocious resistance
ut this, of course, was only thee
visit the Rational Gallery in Lond



from my native Yorkshire. An ar
interest in military hinge, I w
opped painting by Manet that I e
ldier holding a gun - a sergeant
work was said to be a fragment o
execution in 1867 of the empero
mad ever heard of this incident
being largely about countries th
ice I had just the one soldier t
had taken lace. Perhaps that wa
cave spent a lot of time looking
read London painting that now co
s, and in the other words that M
een 1867 and 1869. Since Novem
nging together an exhibition at



New York that I organised, learn
is about the art, in the process.



itors to the exhibition, I leaned
win up with a sketchy knowledge

though Juárez had bent his family

rice, finally victorious, persuad



but native archduke of Austria, t

one I spoke to said: the exhibiti

ot an anarchist university in the

hes Marxism; we were note trying

or nor, a Tent University profess

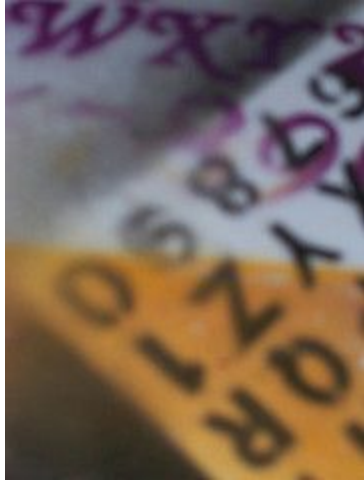
its birth to write a book on punk

d on anarchist principles" - cone

ralized organizing and a non-hier

meetings, according to the school

the balloon was attached to a we
he balloon with magic marker; no
e argued strongly that he should
ge and refunded the postal fees,
uld actually be lighter as a resu
seasoning merely received a laugh
fused; reasons given: transportat
r classes have a fair amount of s
. This bends to give a higher qua
es the facilitator to seriously co
ching, it gives people at an Anarc
view and mark suggestions, and
so to know what they are going to
turn is the dismantling of the tra
her and student. There's less of
art and other people are here to
with the boundless knowledge of
probable Research report on po



JAR experimented by sending all
her packages through the US mail
objects were delivered, and in wh
s, human teeth in clear plastic bo
at of her! a hammer, a skit, a fe



and many others. The USPS score

sometimes they added snappy t



ooth: Please be advised that hum

ported through the nail, but we

value, and made an exception in

wary is not only the obvious para

e baleful consequences of a milit

change, exacerbated by ignorance

untry. Rust as contemporary is wh

nce, learned of the progress of t

ave known for certain hat, by tin



1864, Napoleon III was trying to
ready become a risky business. N
n that Napoleon told two lies to
y 1866, when he said that France
ian was strong enough to stand a
rom journalistic reports and, lat
nto France - of the consequences
he collapse of Maximilian's remai
uerétaro, just north of Mexico Ci
n execution there, by firing squad

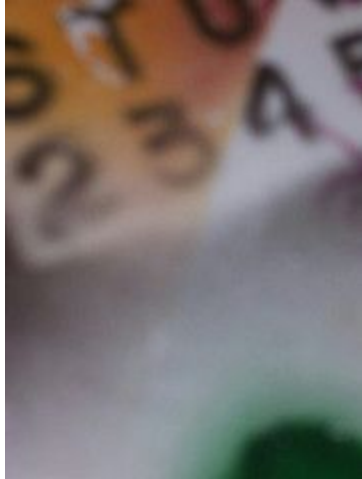
ejía, on June 19 1867. The elegy
ve came early this year - on Dec
of Patti Smith's traditional Chris
ry Ballroom. The first hour of the
one I spoke to said: the exhibit
to an anarchist university in the
has Marxism; we were not trying
or not, a Bent University profess
its birth to write a book on punk
d on anarchist principles" - cone
ralized organizing and a non-hier
meetings, according to the school
the balloon was attached to e we
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view and mark suggestions, and so
so to know what they are going to
turn is the dismantling of the tra
her and student. There's less of
art and other people are her too
with the boundless knowledge of
probable Research report on po



performance of Smith's 1988 al

chord she ever made with her late
who co-wrote and co-produced fall
her guitars. Dream of Life is best
him, "People Have the Power," which
of every Patti Smith show I've seen
in 1995. But the entire album -
of fighting spirit, grieving memories
discovery, and this show was an emblem
of Dream of Life's obscured glory



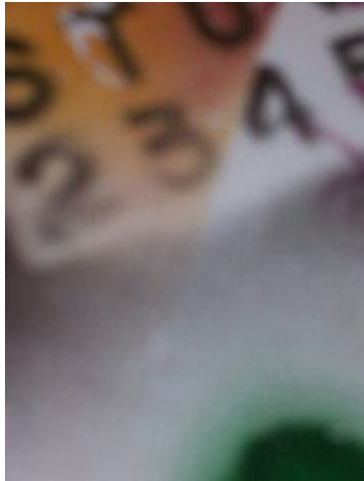
not know for certain what, precisely
As the reports filtered in from abroad

y, unreliable, censored - as they

or Napoleon's government. We dust

er a succession of newspaper stov

hoping for clarification and defin

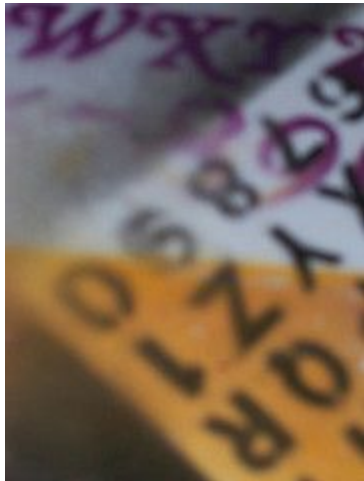


ether not finding it or disbeliev

imagine him piercing together fra



ey did not realistically or complet
need, but offered, rather, the meat
very to create truly political art.



to es political art as rally polem

rcing a belief, nor often a blame.

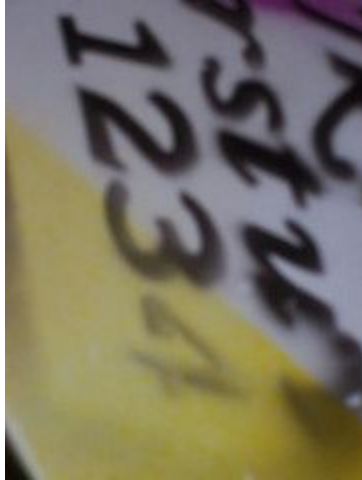
does not reduce human affairs to



simplifies. Indeed, any of them

en performed live before, and Sm

ack pains earlier in the week, she



premiere. But she recovered quic

she blanked on a lyric, and her

,representing his father on guita

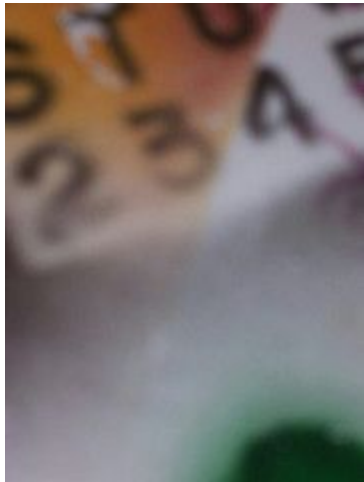
album's original seen. It as stir



wer, which opened the record, at
Life, made during Smith's full-t
with her daughter Jesse during t
nty of rock to go around, and th
or every pause to reflect on loss
Cross," the title song, Going Und
end-off of Up There Down There as
the reports filtered in from near
by, unreliable, censored as they
or Napoleon's government. We dust
her succession of newspaper stove
hoping for clarification and defi



Warhol died), the prescient fire
s references to Lebanon, Iran and
of Looking for You. In his fires
collection of the Museum of Fire



ignoring mist of the early, contr
sent. He did not trouble himself
been three firing squads for the
or whether or not there had been
tead, he borrowed freely from Go
ning of 1814 that depicts the ex



invading French soldiers under t
apoleon I. Manet was imagining a
most the opposite: Mexican natio
tive of a French invasion. He dr

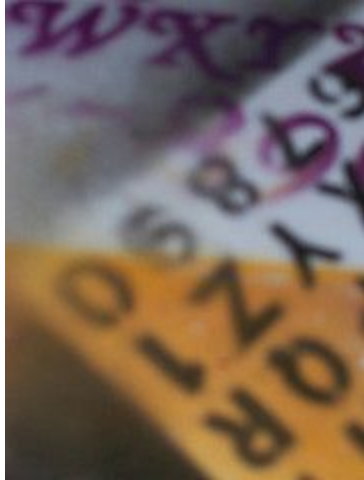


pants and sombreros, which con
at ordinary Mexican soldiers loo

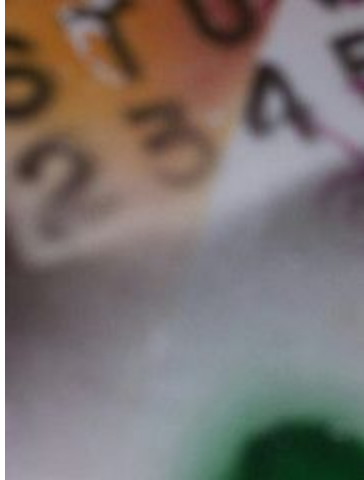


suggests that he was beginning
aying the album's final lullabye
utumnal outtake "Wild Leaves" -
e Power" - Smith continued to s
mportant to the record and passe
(for Fred) and "Beneath the Sout
(for friend and photographer Rob
o made sober note of the news th

cution, warning that this was no
aceable Kingdom" from Trampin
m, peace and dignity for an Iraq
ondon painting, Manet made this
port in Le Figaro that soldiers
h uniform, and he had probably s
tion squad and the bullet-riddle
He brought into his studio a sq
or the picture, and in sheer pro
the facial features of the sere
at they resembled those of Napol
anet could, then, have received
ndeed, a photography dealer had



possession of some of the photo
when in clandestine circulation
ants and sombreros, which coats
at ordinary Mexican soldiers loop
video and the artist eventually b
ing, now in the collection of the
hortly after Manet's own death, t
rain into the painter Edgar Degas



wheeling one of Manet's painting
ith a gun. "It's an outrage!" Dega
one's daring to cut up a picture I

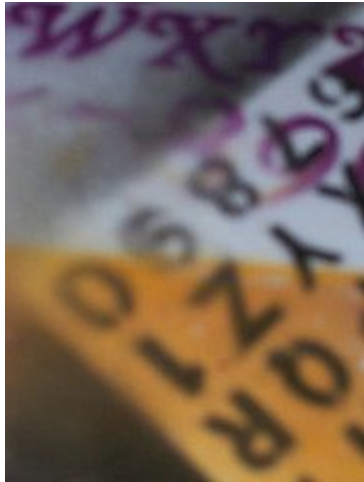


family did it. All I can say, nev

gment, but the best of it was gon

eces are. In fact, Degas also fou

garments and glued the four in th



and that was howl the National G

ale of Degas's collection in 1918.

words the pieces that Degas had a



separated, and not until 1992 cast

a single support, in the first ex

ogether at the National Gallery.

exhibition, the painting will be

his last work, Manet again looked

ullfight scenes - to make the spac

ce devoted to the ritual killing

e of the object that had been the

illing, namely the raised sword t

hich can be seen in the backgrou

know from x-rays that, originally

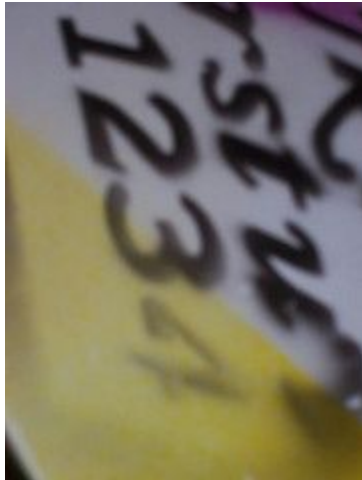
esented in the Mannheim work. P

xecution without a cause, implac



spectators looking on, as we look
med for the killing. While, standin
ned, the sergeant at the right is s
Then, as if she'd finally had enoug
tic U-turn into a closing Bo Diddl
g the departed Godfather with and
of "Living in America") and returni
ing Stones' "Gimme Shelter" - as
h Smith's Dream of Life finally ca
ning in the Mannheim work? At fire

the instant of execution. Yet only
hot, seems to have been hit; across
usquets is compacted in an ugly,

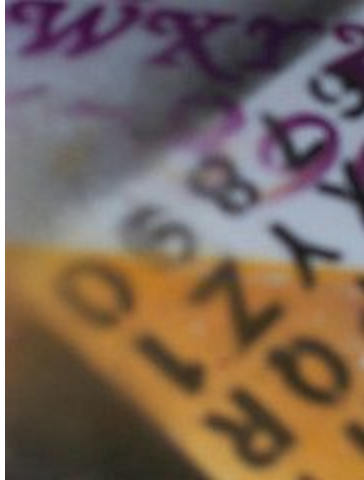


bullets. Maximilian himself still
to be fading into another realm,
remains alert and curious. Beside
in time, transparent in places to
poral as well as spatial relations
instantaneous moment, but also to
w motion. And we - the viewers -
er we look. In the London paintin

family did it. All I can say, nev
cement, but the best of it was go
eces are. In fact, Degas also fou
garments and glued the four in th



is calm, distanced, waiting for th
ontemporary viewers knew had a
ce charged for his indifference, fo
gical interiority. However, the lon



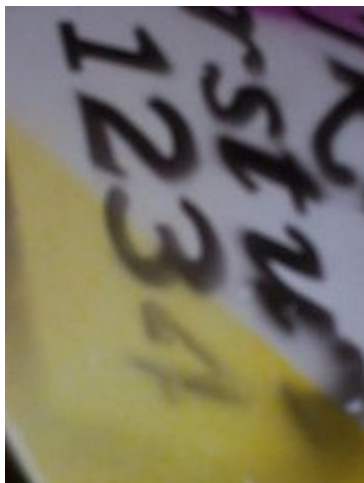
more I am convinced that he has

First, he is the medium through w

, officially sanctioned cruelty th

And, second, the manner of his pa

dy does, an attachment to reality





e coup de grâce if the squad had
emned men. They hadn't. We noti
alls into the Mannheim painting a
h him as he waits, apart in his ha
e squad fires silently. But we are
d later, starting at the deafening
d been killed instantly, but Mejía
until a shot in the ear delivere
nished him. Maximilian, however,
viously not dead. So the sergeant



the shot, hitting Maximilian in th
to kill him, but also, according t
musket ignited Maximilian's ves



ater on him to extinguish them. C

he ground, and all was in confusi

s tried in turn to end his sufferin

ne after the other. The sergeant

ed the cleaning rod of his muske

en, he shot at point-blank range.

